

the county is subject to the Arveschoug-Bird Amendment which limits revenue increases to about 6 percent per year. But because much of the increase in the county's assessed valuation is from new construction, Wyatt said the county may have the option of keeping most of the money.

What the Prowers County Commissioners will decide to do with the approximately three-quarter of a million dollar annual tax windfall is not certain, but Wyatt said he thinks some of it should go to property tax relief by reducing of the mill levy for all taxpayers. He says that would help out businesses like Neoplan, making them more competitive. Since the wind farm is not located within Lamar City limits, however, the city will see little, if any direct benefit from property tax revenues.

What Wyatt calls the "windfarm windfall" won't take effect for another year, the beginning of 2005, but over the long haul, the \$760,000 per year in property taxes paid to the county alone would inject some \$22.9 million into the local economy over a 30-year period if the commissioners chose to collect all the new money and not reduce the property tax levy. Wyatt said property like the wind farm is assessed at the state level, and uses a formula which assures that renewable energy projects are taxed at the same rate of investment that would be spent on conventional power plants. Thus even though the wind farm sold for over \$200 million, the state formula means it will be assessed at an approximately \$100 million in actual value.

But that isn't the end of it. Construction is now under way on another major electrical power-related project about ten miles northeast of Lamar. Xcel Energy is installing an AC-DC power converter that will link electrical grids—a project estimated to be worth at least \$25 million.

Wyatt estimates the county will net another \$189,000 from the substation, while Re-2 will see tax revenue increases of \$226,000 to its general fund and \$50,000 to its bond repayment fund. PMC would net about \$47,000. All those figures are, of course based on present mill levies, but could vary.

An engineer at the substation project north of Lamar said yesterday that the project is being built by a consortium of two companies, Beta Engineering of Pineville, Louisiana, and Siemens Transmission and Distribution of Raleigh, North Carolina. He said the project is expected to continue for about a year, and when complete, will link two of the nation's major power grids, converting electrical power from alternating to direct current, then back to alternating again. In the process, the station will also convert power from 230,000 volts to 345,000 volts so the power can be routed into long-distance transmission lines.

The project was mobilized about a week ago, and a subcontractor on the job, Cajun Construction of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is already on the job beginning preliminary concrete work.

In addition to local job opportunities and increased sales by local businesses the projects have created and will continue to create, the two projects combined will provide an estimated \$79 million in property tax receipts over a 30-year period, according to Wyatt's figures.

The project also paved the way for Lamar Light and Power and the Arkansas River Power Authority to own wind farms of its own. G.E. does not ordinarily sell only a handful of its 1.5 megawatt turbines—the largest in the wind power business—because of complications and expense with maintenance and warranties of the equipment. But since the wind farm was only a few miles down the road, ARPA and Lamar were able to capitalize on the event, along with 40-year

lows in bond market interest, to install windfarms in Lamar and Springfield.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 6, 2004, the House had a vote on H. Res. 402, a resolution urging the Lao People's Democratic Republic to provide unrestricted access to Laos for international election monitors and humanitarian aid workers. On House rollcall vote #149, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING ROSE LAMBERT, CHIEF AIDE TO SUPERVISOR HYLAND

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rose Lambert for over 16 years of dedicated service to the Mount Vernon community.

Ms. Lambert has been a pivotal member of the Mount Vernon community for many years, both as an employee of the Mount Vernon District Supervisor and as an active citizen in her neighborhood. Until recently, Rose lived in the Mount Zephyr community where she was active in the Citizens' Association, acting as president a number of times.

In the Mount Vernon District Supervisor's Office, Ms. Lambert has played an important role in a number of high-profile issues, including the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Study, Richmond Highway Revitalization efforts, and recently, the campaign to save Mount Vernon Hospital.

Ms. Lambert is most well-known in the northern areas of the Mount Vernon District where she has worked tirelessly on many significant projects. She has been instrumental in the successful completion of many community improvement projects, including the Huntington, Mount Zephyr, Fairhaven, and New Alexandria communities. Ms. Lambert continues to push for projects that will improve the quality of life for Mount Vernon citizens.

As Hyland's Chief Aide, Ms. Lambert has been the lead point of contact for county staff, and has had the responsibility of attending the Board of Supervisors meeting in Fairfax. Furthermore, she has represented Supervisor Hyland at countless meetings and has played an active role in the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Lambert for 16 years of service to Mount Vernon District. Her contributions and efforts are much appreciated and will be greatly missed. Her service is an exemplary example of an ideal citizen and model employee. I wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BLAKE KLINSIEK ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Blake Klinksiek of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Blake's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2008. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Blake brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Perrysburg High School, Blake has attained a grade point average of 3.308, which ranks 121st out of the 334 students in his class. During his time at Perrysburg High School, Blake has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. During his first year, Blake was named to the Honor Roll and received High honors recognition due to his GPA of 3.9. His second year was again marked by his being named to the Honor Roll and receiving yet another Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Blake was named a "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and maintained a high level of achievement throughout his tenure at Perrysburg High School.

Outside the classroom, Blake has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Perrysburg, Ohio. On the fields of friendly strife, Blake has participated in Varsity Track and Football. He was Captain of the football team as a sophomore and has lettered multiple times in track. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Blake is an active member in his community by participating in Young Life, was a Youth Football Camp and YMCA Youth Camp counselor, and was an English interpreter for a visiting Spanish student.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Blake Klinksiek. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Blake will do very well during his career at Air Force and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING SHIRLEY COPELAND

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a constituent of